

Message Text

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71

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /066 W

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R 190917Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4269

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 630

E.O. 11652:NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG,CE,TH

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE THAI INTEREST IN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

REF: BANGKOK 2064

1. FONOFF DIRECTOR GENERAL BASNAYAKE, WHO ACCOMPANIED PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIAKE ON HER TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, TOLD AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 13 THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR SURPRISES WAS THE APPARENT INTEREST OF THAILAND IN THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO. POSSIBLE RTG PARTICIPATION IN AUGUST MEETING WAS RAISED WITH MRS. BANDARANAIAKE BY THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTER.HE TOLD PRIMIN THAT, IN VIEW OF THE DISSOLUTION OF SEATO AND PHASE-OUT OF AMERICAN TROOPS, THAIS SHOULD BE ABLE TO QUALIFY FOR SOME TYPE OF NON-ALIGNED STATUS. (HE APPARENTLY DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER HE WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF FULL PARTICIPANT,OBSERVER OR GUEST.)

2. ACCORDING TO BASNAYAKE, MRS. BANDARANAIAKE AND HER DELEGATION, GAVE GENERALLY POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THAIS, BUT
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ASKED WHETHER CONTINUED PRESENCE OF SOME US TROOPS

MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.
THE THAIS EXPLAINED THAT ONLY ABOUT 2000 AMERICAN
FORCES WOULD REMAIN IN THAILAND. OF THESE, ABOUT
1000 WOULD BE IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY, WHILE ANOTHER
1000 WOULD MAN COMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATIONS FOR THE
DEFENSE OF THAILAND. MRS. BANDARANAIKE ACCEPTED THIS
EXPLANATION AND PROPOSED THAT, AFTER THE THAI ELECTIONS,
FOREIGN MINISTER SEND FORMAL REQUEST TO SRI LANKA FOR
PARTICIPATION AT COLOMBO SUMMIT. THIS FORMAL REQUEST,
WHEN RECEIVED, WOULD THEN BE CONSIDERED BY OTHER
NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB00630
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760062-1115
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760236/aaaabfbj.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 2064
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE THAI INTEREST IN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, PORC, CE, TH, (BANDARANAIKE, SIRIMAVO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006